(d) if so, the reasoms therefore indicating wpether any prior approval required before undertaking any alternative in motor vehicles; and

(e) by when the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 would be amended accordingly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (e) As intimated by the Miffistry of Surface Transport, under Section 52 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 alteration in motor vehicles for its operation by different types of fuel or source of energy, including battery, compressed natural gas, solar power or any other fuel or source of energy other than liquid petroleum gas is permissible. However, the grant of permission to# use LPG asvan auto fuel is under consideration. The Section also prescribed procedure to be followed by the vehicle owners for making any conversion in the petrol driven vehicles to diesel fuel. No time frame can be given for enacting amendment in the Motor Vehicles Act.

Petrol Pumps and LPG Dealerships in Assam

3633. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol pumps and LPG distributorships functioning in Assam, district-wise, and dealer-wise;

(b) the details of villages covered under the said dealership;

(c) whether Government propose to open such distributorships in the hilly areas of the country, particularly in Assam; and

(d) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E.PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) As on 1.10.99, there were 148 LPG distributorships and 368 retail outlet dealership in operation in Assam to meet the fuel requirements of the consumers. In order to meet the increased demand, in addition to the locations pending from the previous marketing plans, 2078 LPG distributorships and 927 retail outlet dealerships have been included in the Marketing plans 1996-98 for the country including for hilly areas. This includes 69 LPG distributorships and 4 retail outlet dealerships for Assam.